The Atkinson Family Archive:

Small-Town American Farming Through the Lens of One Family's History

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Introduction

The United States of America has a modern reputation as a global capitalist power player and a leading first world nation in terms of technological advancements and scientific innovations, but what is often forgotten and overlooked is the nation's substantial history of farming. Farmers built the foundation of America, helping cultivate and harvest the land, transforming it into the nation it is today. The topic of farming may seem niche to many, but it is timely and relevant.

The popular television show, *Home Before Dark*, is now airing its second season on the TV streaming app, Apple TV +. The show, loosely based on true events, follows a child reporter as she uncovers crimes, injustices, and other mysteries in a small American town. This second season follows a storyline of corporate greed and corruption as the town's largest tech company and employer, Strata Tech, is revealed to have poisoned the town's water supply with chemicals it used to coat and seal its airplanes (Fox & Resnik, 2021). One of the pivotal plots of the season follows the local town farmer as he tries to maintain ownership of his family farmland even though he is struggling and cannot afford to continue to own, run, and maintain the farm. The show's most recent episode features a scene in which his daughter is disappointed in him for selling the family's farm to Strata Tech. In the scene, the daughter yells at her farmer father and cries, "It wasn't just your farm, it was our family's history, our legacy, our name, our everything" (Fox & Resnik, 2021).

For many Americans, their family farms were and continue to remain their family's legacy. It is rare, today, for families and small businesses to own their own land or operate their own businesses in a capitalist landscape that has become dominated by big businesses and corporate monopolies (Open Markets Institute, n.d.; Mauldin, 2019; Stewart, 2020). It has

become even more difficult for smaller businesses to stay open after the fiscal decimation of the Covid-19 pandemic which saw many larger companies obtaining more than half of the emergency small business funds that were set aside for small businesses (Crow & Fontanella-Khan, 2020; Ponciano, 2020). Many of these businesses accomplished this by ensuring that multiple loans were sent to smaller entities that they owned in order to appear to be smaller outfits than they actually were (Kiel & Gillum, 2020).

Inequities for Small-Town Farmers and Black Farmers

The history of farming inequities may have continued throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, but they certainly did not begin during this timeframe. The land that my grandfather, Roland S. Atkinson II, has lived on since 1929 and where his own nuclear family's home has stood since 1967 is land that was passed down from generation to generation within his family line. The land was given to him by his grandfather, Ephraim B. Watson. Not only did farming the land offer the Watson and Atkinson family farmers with "economic autonomy not found in wage labor" (Franzen, 2020, para. 24), but the land ownership was an invaluable material asset that could sell for far higher than purchase price in later, higher market-value years and could also ensure the economic privilege of a free plot of land given as a gift from one family member to the other.

The ownership of land and property is considered material wealth. Material wealth and asset ownership can ensure that a family and its subsequent lines of descendants and offspring are able to either further grow the already acquired wealth or at least have a solid foundation for when they begin their own economic pursuits and business endeavors. This transfer of generational wealth is noted as being a privilege and ability primarily dominated and enjoyed by white citizens (Johnson, 2021; McIntosh, Moss, Nunn, & Schambaugh, 2020; Mineo, 2021). The

researcher's uncle, Roland S. Atkinson III, directly benefited from this transfer of generational wealth when his father, Roland S. Atkinson II, provided him with the land for his first home. This land was given to the researcher's uncle by the researcher's grandfather for only one dollar and was able to be given at that price since it was a transfer between a parent and child. This transfer of land ensured that the researcher's uncle had a way to avoid the financial hiccup of an economic barrier towards permanent housing and homeownership. This land transfer also ensured that he had a future asset that he could make great profit from since any future sale of the land would ensure basically a 100 % profit margin for my uncle since he was given the land as a familial gift or endowment.

The ownership of family land also ensures that family can live on the land without being at the mercy of private landlords whose property and homeownership now disproportionately provides them with concentrated housing equity (Arundel, 2017). If private businesses, conglomerates, and wealthy individuals own most of the land, property, and housing, then the ability to accumulate one's own asset wealth greatly diminishes for individual citizens and those just now starting their own families and family systems (Arundel, 2017). Individual land ownership will also become even more valuable in light of the perpetual threat of climate change and how its effects may cause land to become scarcer, land prices to rise, and affect housing costs (Economics Week, 2018). This effect of climate change on land prices is already prevalent. Over 40% of the United States citizens live in coastal areas that will be drastically affected by rising sea levels (Gill & Yu, 2021). When these lands and areas become uninhabitable and unlivable due to frequent flooding and other affects from rising sea levels, coastal citizens will have to seek housing and shelter in other regions of the country (Nicholls, 2011). Their vast numbers and immediate need for property and land will drive up the costs of land in other areas

of the country since the demand for land will be high and the availability for land will be scarce (Gill & Yu, 2021; Nicholls, 2011). Due to the increased costs involved with climate change and the necessary infrastructure upgrades and updates needed to ensure greener solutions and more ethically and globally sustainable methodologies for human habitats and organizations, many big businesses and corporations will be needed to foot the bill (Gianni, 2020). These businesses will have the capital that everyday citizens will not possess, and they can then, in turn, set the market prices for housing and land and further eliminate the autonomy and economic thresholds for private citizens to own their lands and have direct affect and say in how their communities are shaped and governed (Gianni, 2020).

Another important piece within this discussion is the systemic inequalities of American white privilege, systemic racism, and white supremacy which have enabled this generational wealth gap to exist between black and white citizens with an exponential and disproportionate amount of wealth allotted to and garnered by white citizens (Cashin, 2019; Johnson, 2014; Kuhn & Steins, 2020; NewsRX Health, 2018; Masterson, Rios-Avila, Wolff, & Zacharias, 2019; Oliver & Shapiro, 2010; Rawlinson, 2017; Schlesinger, 2020; Schularick, & Steins, 2020; Williams, 2016).

The racial inequalities found within the generational wealth gap are also found among the farming community and profession. There is a consequential history of black farmers having their land stolen or taken away from them, an experience that disproportionately affected them over their white counterparts (Barth, 2019; Daniel, 2013; Equal Justice Initiative, 2019; Gordon, 2018; Nittle, 2021). Black farmers in the South lost millions of acres of farmland. In a PBS News Hour piece, journalist John Yang explains how much of these land losses have occurred since the 1950s (2019). This is crucial to keep in mind when juxtaposing against the Atkinson family

timeline of experiencing job security, wage security, income security, and land security by holding onto the family farmlands and being able to bring subsequent family members into the fold of this farmland security.

The Plight of Black Farmers

The ability of the Atkinson family to accumulate, acquire, hold on to, and pass down the generational wealth of privately owned farmlands is an ability that is uniquely privileged to their status as white American citizens. After the emancipation of slaves in America, Black citizens accounted for a substantial number of farmers in America. Black farmers were able to own and farm over 15 million acres of land in America and they lost over 12 million acres of land, approximately 90% of the land that they owned (Daniel, 2013; Gordon, 2018; Pierce, 2019; Reiley, 2021). There are many reasons for the land loss including The Homestead Acts that favored white settlers in the allocation of subsidized land and U. S. Department of Agriculture loans that were denied to Black farmers or whose applications were ignored or delayed (Daniel, 2013; National Archives, n.d.; Reiley, 2021). While the Homestead Acts did give out over 270 million acres of land to settlers and many slaves were now able to own their own land, the Homestead Acts did include language that stated that agricultural workers and domestic servants were not able to receive land (Fink, n.d.; PBS, 2003). These groups of workers were mostly African American, Mexican, and Asian and not only did withholding land ownership from them hold back their financial progress and prospects, it ensured the removal of a revenue stream when these communities were already unable to pass wealth down to their children who in turn ended up supporting them financially due to the racial barriers to economic growth that were forced upon them (PBS, 2003).

The Homestead Acts had a legitimately substantial historical legacy that resulted in descendants of original Homestead land recipients, in 2000, amassing a size of 46 million people (Merritt & Haselby, 2016). Another important figure that demonstrates the inherently racist outcomes of land acquisition is that 1.6 million white families were able to become landowners as a result of the subsequent Southern Homestead Act (SHA) while only 4,000 to 5,000 Black Americans who filed were ultimately given land patents (Merrit & Haselby, 2016). The historical impact of this act is noted and, while not confirmed in acquisition of physical documentation or recovery of the original Watson family or Atkinson farmland deeds, can be assumed to have contributed directly to the acquisition of family land at the center of this research project. The ability for the researcher to trace their family's land back to predecessors and previous family members is not an ability regularly afforded to Black citizens as the Homestead Act laid legislative groundwork for further government practices and societal barriers that ensured Blacks did not own the same number of farmlands that Whites did and also ensured that their land could easily be taken away from them (Merrit & Hasselby, 2016).

Long after the Homestead Act, in the 1950's, the systemic groundwork for racial inequality in the farming sector was laid. Throughout the south, the federal government provided larger loans for white-owned farms than for black-owned farms (Newkirk, 2019). While these practices were more insidious and behind the scenes in nature, there were other instances in which Black farmers were denied loans based off of their involvement and recognized positions within the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) (Newkirk, 2019). Black farmers and farm workers could also lose their land, be evicted, and be fired if they registered to vote during the Civil Rights Era (Daniel, 2013; Philpott, 2021). Local banks would also deny Black farmers from acquiring loans (Newkirk, 2019). Conspiratorial collaborations

between white-run federal government loan programs and local agencies worked hard to ensure that Black farmers were forced into foreclosure on their lands so that wealthy white citizens could buy them (Newkirk, 2019). If that didn't work, the threat of racial violence could also be used to ensure that farmlands were taken from Black farmers (Newkirk, 2019).

Other barriers to land access that are important to note are that many Black Americans did not have cash savings or equity and did not know how to interact with the United States government, unlike their white peers who had long had the ability to accumulate wealth and economically interact with the federal government (Merrit & Hasselby, 2016). The existence of sharecropping was another barrier for Black farmers to overcome in their quest to own and harvest their own farmlands (PBS, 2021-b). After Black citizens were freed from slavery, they had no cash or monetary assets and therefore had to rent land from white landowners in order to raise their crops (PBS, 2021-b). The interest rates for renting these lands were high and farming often yielded unpredictable results such as low harvests which meant less crops to sell and make back the money with which to pay landlords back for farmland rental fees (PBS, 2021-b).

Another barrier for Black Americans was the national policy of labor contracts in which freed slaves had to remain in a labor contract for one year and, if they broke their contract, many now freed slaves would be forced into chain gangs (Merrit & Hasselby, 2016). Chain gangs were groups of convicted prisoners who were forced to perform various labor tasks while chained together (PBS, 2021-a; Gorman, 1997). One of the labor tasks was farming (PBS, 2021-a). The chain gangs were basically another form of slavery that was simply outfitted with a different name in order to protect the interests of those running the gangs and in order to further perpetuate a system in which Black citizens were subservient to white citizens (Brown, n.d.; Gorman, 1997).

Today, Black farmers still encounter systemic injustices based off of their race and racist treatment by governmental agencies. Black-owned farms are typically smaller in size than white-owned farms and yield substantially different economic results with full time white farmers making approximately $17,190 farming income annually in 2017 while full time Black farmers made only approximately $2,408 in annual farming income (Reiley, 2021).

The introduction of a new senate bill may be able to begin to right these wrongs. The Justice for Black Farmers Act started as a response to a letter that Black farmers and advocates sent to senator Elizabeth Warren when she was running for president during the 2019 election cycle. Its proposal was for an annual pledge of $8 million towards buying farmland and giving it exclusively to Black farmers as well as providing 20,000 grants, funding for historically Black colleges and universities that focused on agricultural studies, training for Black farmers, and supporting Black farmer cooperatives (Congress, 2021; Ducheneaux, 2021; Philpott, 2020; Philpott, 2021; USDA, n.d.). The bill found legislative success as part of the American Rescue Plan that was passed in 2021 under the Biden administration (Reiley, 2021). The passing of the bill is the first substantial law that addresses the historical inequities faced by Black farmers and aims to provide reparations to right these injustices (Reiley, 2021).

American Small-Town Farmers

The daily quality of life as well as the ability to make a livable income off of their farming output has greatly suffered for American small farmers since the 1980's (Farm Aid, n.d.-b; Farm Aid, n.d.-c; Farm Aid, n.d.-d; Goodman, 2020; Murdock & Leistritz, 1988). In the 1980's, there was a farming recession in which farmers were negatively impacted by the 1980's financial crisis and debt from which they could not fiscally recover (Iowa PBS, 2021; Lawton, 2016). This agricultural market decline also stemmed from an increase in farming demand and

farm prices throughout the 1970's that caused an inflationary agricultural economic landscape that rose higher than expenses could keep up with and ultimately experienced a dramatic decline due to soaring interest rates and global export supply and demand chain issues and declines (FDIC, 1997). Thanks to a lengthy history of corporate greed and domination of the farming sector of the economy and legislation that favors corporations over smaller businesses and small farms, only a handful of corporations own and control a majority of key agricultural products like pesticides, poultry, egg, pork, and grains (Farm Aid, n.d.-a; Farm Aid, n.d.-b; Greenpeace, n.d.; Koba, 2014; McGreal, 2019; Moon, 2019; NFFC, n.d.; Smith, 2015).

A 2020 study conducted by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that farmers were among the professions with the highest suicide rates in America (CDC, 2020; Wedell, Sherman, & Chadde, 2020). Many farmers not only have the added pressures of holding onto familial lands, but their sense of identity is also combined with their profession. Many farmers have only ever been farmers and have never worked in any other field. Selling off their livestock in order to make ends meet, especially when many farmers are in their 50's and cannot easily pivot to a new profession, feels like a death of self as well as a closing of their farm and the chances of improving their financial livelihoods (Wedell, Sherman, & Chadde, 2020).

The monopolization of the farming industry even extends to how and when farmers can repair their farming tools and equipment. With legislation favoring the companies that build the products famer use, such as John Deere tractors, farmers often face issues when their equipment needs repairs (Paul, 2021). Many farmers have had to lose valuable harvesting time due to lengthy waiting periods for manufacturers to send out technicians to fix faulty equipment (Paul, 2021). New legislation has been introduced that should help address and combat these issues and

let farmers fix their own equipment instead of relying on and waiting for manufacturers which could result in significant financial deficits due to missed harvesting windows (Paul, 2021).

Ensuring a shift in corporate control over the farming industry and its agricultural outputs is not just beneficial for farmers, it is beneficial for everyone. Domination over food supply is unethical and can result in less sustainability due to the pollutive results of large farms and factory farms (Flesher, 2020; Gibbens, 2021; Haspel, 2014; Pace University, 2020). Smaller farmers also ensure biodiversity in the types of food we eat (Nowakowski, 2018). According to *National Geographic*, 12 plans and five animal species account for approximately 75% of what the global population eats (Nowakowski, 2018). If these animals and crops are negatively affected by natural disasters or outbreaks of diseases, such as the Covid-19 pandemic, the world is at risk for losing imperative food supply chains (Nowakowski, 2018).

History of New Jersey Agriculture and Lands

The Watson and Atkinson families whose historical narratives and artifacts are the focus of the archival collection created from this research are a part of a long history of New Jersey agriculture and farming. The first peoples to claim ownership of New Jersey lands were the Lenape tribe, also known and referred to as the Lenni-Lenape or Delaware Tribe (Historical Society of Washington Township, 2011; Lurie & Veit, 2012; McCart, 2009). The Lenape and other local Native American tribes populated New Jersey as far back as A. D. 1600 with as many as 12,000 peoples at that time (Lurie & Veit, 2012). The earliest written testimonies from European settlers describing these New Jersey tribes date back to 1524 when the Italian navigator, Giovanni da Verrazzano, explored the area while sailing for the French (Lurie & Veit, 2012). The Dutch also explored this area in the early 1600's and built small settlements, including one in what is known today as Gloucester City, New Jersey (Lurie & Veit, 2012).

Thanks to the spread of smallpox in the 17th century, unleashed by European settlers onto Native tribes, multitudes of Lenape peoples died and much of their culture and language died with them (Lurie & Veit, 2012). Dutch and Swedish settlers dominated this region for a time, set up trading routes, and traded with the local tribes (Lurie & Veit, 2012).

Around 1670, documentation surfaced that details quakers settling the same region and buying land from the Lenape people (Lurie & Veit, 2012). In the 18th century, the Lenape and other Native tribes experienced significant shrinkage of their lands due to geographic loss to settlers and were forced to fight in the French and Indian War (Lurie & Veit, 2012). Many moved out west in attempts to escape the settlers in New Jersey and some even signed treaties with the United States during the Revolutionary War (Lurie & Veit, 2012). The Delaware tribe members who moved out west populated states such as Oklahoma, Wisconsin, Missouri, and Kansas (Lurie & Veit, 2012). This mass exodus greatly dispersed the Lenape people and contributed to the decline of their culture, language, and rituals within the New Jersey region (Lurie & Veit, 2012).

The notable quaker, William Penn, founded the province of Pennsylvania. His Pennsylvania colony not only was a model for other colonies but was successful in creating a safe environment for quakers who experienced severe religious persecution back in England (Gier, n.d.; History, 2020; Library of Congress, n.d.; Sigmond, 2012; U.S. History, n.d.). These English quakers followed Penn's example and emigrated to these beginning settlements in America (U.S. History, n.d.). These quakers included the Atkinson family with their ship manifest documenting their sail from England to New Haven, Connecticut. They sailed on the ship, ye Bonaventure, under the command of the Ship Master-Commander, James Riccost. Their passenger ship search documentation which validified their arrival to the United States was dated

January of 1634. Please see Appendix A, Figure 1 for the figure of the ship manifest and Appendix A, Figure 2 for the figure of the ship manifest documentation.

The state of New Jersey has endured many reputations throughout its two hundred and thirty-four-year tenure, but its reputation as the Garden State is its most legitimate form with the most tangibly traceable longevity. As the third state to ratify the United States Constitution in 1787, New Jersey has an extensive and substantial history (State of New Jersey Department of State, 2011). New Jersey was and is still widely known for its production of what is known as the "Jersey tomato" (Rutgers University, n.d.). In 2016, New Jersey produced 71.9 million pounds of tomatoes yielding $46 million from the sale of tomatoes (NJ.com, 2019). The soil, growing conditions, and weather patterns in New Jersey are ripe for tomatoes (NJ.com, 2019).

This fertile soil yielded a variety of crops beyond tomatoes. In Cumberland County, New Jersey, crops such as pumpkins, melons, corn, beef, and squash were bountiful (Cumberland County, 2021). In Gloucester County, New Jersey, farmers raised "fruit, farm vegetables, and poultry" and bred "cattle, hogs, and other livestock" (Gloucester County, n.d., para. 1). Gloucester County's agricultural exports also thrived due to the prominence of their local dairy farming industry as well as modern canneries that functioned year-round, quick freezing businesses that could freeze and preserve the crop yields, and nearby markets where farmers could easily travel to sell their produce (Gloucester County, n.d.).

Gloucester County, New Jersey predates the ratification of New Jersey into the constitutionally recognized status of the United States. Gloucester County was founded in 1686 by Quaker settlers such as John Fenwick (Gloucester County New Jersey, n.d-a; Pomfret, 1951). The Watson and Atkinson family have spent hundreds of years in Gloucester County and descended from these Quaker settlers (Ancestry.com, n.d.). The Watson Farm was known for its

cantaloupe (C. Conboy, personal communication, July 1, 2021). They sold their cantaloupe at Reading Terminal Market in Philadelphia, a public market that has been operable since 1893 and has a long history of attracting local farmers to sell their produce there (Reading Terminal Market, n.d.-a). The Watson Farm, along with many other farmers from New Jersey, sold their produce at what was then referred to as High Street which was located along the Delaware River (Reading Terminal Market, n.d.-b). According to the Reading Terminal Market's 1913 Directory, "the truck gardens of New Jersey, the orchards of Pennsylvania, the vineyards of California and the lands of the Tropics all contribute their choicest productions for the Reading Terminal Market" (Reading Terminal Market, n.d.-b, para. 19). The local farmers and agricultural producers continued to fill the stalls of the Market even during the height of The Great Depression (Reading Terminal Market, n.d.-b). The cost of new farming equipment to meet new food safety regulations priced out local farmers and they gradually left the Market (Reading Terminal Market, n.d.-a). The Watson Family Farm log, dated 1939 to 1968, coincides with this timeline of farming slowing down and local agricultural production halting.

In addition to the issue of new equipment cost barriers, local vandals were burning, ruining, and sabotaging local farms (Courier-News, 1953; Courier-News, 1957; Daily Journal, 1957; N. Appice, personal communication, July 6, 2021). One New Jersey farm, owned and operated by Chet Huntley, experienced a $100,000 loss due to vandalism (Herald-News, 1967). Huntley explained how vandals and thieves knew the physical setup of his farm and were able to herd cattle off of his farm twice (Herald-News, 1967). This epidemic of farm vandalism also contributed to the decrease and subsequent elimination of many small family farms in the Gloucester County area.

Atkinson Family History

The Atkinson family's involvement in Gloucester County, New Jersey, dates back to 1790 when Jonathon Atkinson was born in Gloucester County. Jonathan Atkinson married Elizabeth Allen whose father was Matthew Allen and sailed from England to the American colonies (A. Atkinson, personal communication, July 1, 2021). Jonathan Atkinson and Elizbeth Allen had a child named Lewis. Lewis married Kaziah Warrick and they had six children in the 1840's-1850's time period (Ancestry, n.d.; A. Atkinson, personal communication, July 1, 2021). Lewis V. Atkinson then fathered twelve children, including Lewis A. Atkinson which is who the researcher's family line of Atkinsons descended from (Ancestry, n.d.; A. Atkinson, personal communication, July 1, 2021). Lewis A. Atkinson fathered Albert W. Atkinson who married Mary Teesh. Their child was Roland S. Atkinson I who married Alverna Watson which is how the Atkinson family line merged with the Watson family line (Ancestry, n.d.).

While it is known that the Atkinson family traveled via ship to America in 1634, the intricate ancestral genealogy work conducted begins with family members born in 1838 (Ancestry, n.d.). There are two main branches when tracing the Atkinson line, one led by Delphine P. Kindle, Lewis A. Atkinson, and Laura Allen Sherwin and one led by Ephraim B. Watson and Anna J. Murphy (Ancestry, n.d.). The two lines will be referred to as the Watson line and the Atkinson line to assuage confusion. The Watson line is the predominant line of focus for the research, but it is imperative to note that the Atkinson name is handed down via Lewis A. Atkinson and that the middle name of Sherwin, seen later in Roland S. Atkinson I through Roland S. Atkinson II and III, derives from Laura Allen Sherwin (Ancestry, n.d.). The line led by Ephraim B. Watson resulted in the birth of Ephraim B. Watson II, or Ephraim B. Watson Jr., who ran the Watson Family Farm from 1930 to 1968. Ephraim B. Watson Jr.'s daughter, Alverna Watson, married Roland S. Atkinson I and gave birth to Roland S. Atkinson II. Ephraim

B. Watson Jr. ultimately raised Roland S. Atkinson II after his mother, Alverna Watson, died. He also subsequently gave part of the family's farmland to Roland S. Atkinson II, in 1967, so he could build his family home there. Roland S. Atkinson II's home is still on that land and he still lives there today. In addition, Roland S. Atkinson II gave part of his land to his son, Roland S. Atkinson III, who was able to build a home and live on that portion of the family land from 1991 to 2020 before selling the home and the land to a non-family member. Please see Appendix A, Figure 3 for a figure of the Atkinson and Watson family tree. Please see Appendix A, Figures 4 and 5 for documentation of the Atkinson family land deeds referencing the transfer of land between Ephraim B. Watson Jr and Roland S. Atkinson II, and the transfer of land between Roland S. Atkinson II and Roland S. Atkinson III.

After Alverna Watson died, Roland S. Atkinson I remarried and had two children, Wayne Atkinson and Carol Atkinson, now Carol Marrauo after marriage. Alverna's doctor told her that she should not have any more children after she had Roland S. Atkinson II. She became pregnant and fell off of her horse and subsequently died (A. Atkinson, personal communication, July 1, 2021). After her death, Roland S. Atkinson II's grandparents, Ephraim B. Watson Jr. and Mary Watson, stepped in to raise him. The family does not seem to know why Roland S. Atkinson I did not continue to parent and raise his son, but it is widely understood among family members that once he remarried, his new wife, Sara Atkinson, did not want to associate with his past offspring or family commitments. She wanted to only focus on and acknowledge their two children, Wayne and Carol Atkinson (A. Atkinson, personal communication, July 1, 2021).

According to one Atkinson family member, Roland S. Atkinson III would visit his grandfather, Roland S. Atkinson I, when he was a young child, but he was not allowed to call his grandfather, "grandfather" or "pop-pop" (a local way of saying grandfather) because Sara

Atkinson did not want her children to know that they had a half sibling (A. Atkinson, personal communication, July 1, 2020).

Walton Atkinson and Warren Atkinson, the children of Albert Atkinson and Mary Teesh, grew up in the Old Stone House, a historical landmark in Washington Township, New Jersey that was built in the 1730's and is now run and overseen by the Washington Township Historical Society (Rodia, 2019). Walton and Warren were upset by how Roland S. Atkinson I, their brother, and his wife, Sara, had treated Roland S. Atkinson II. They made a point to spend time bonding with Roland S. Atkinson II and had him stay with them frequently at the Old Stone House (C. Conboy, personal communication, July 3, 2021). In fact, Walton and Roland II shared a lifetime bond that was so crucial and tight knit that Walton, after he died, left Roland II and Roland III the land that he owned. This land was what was once known as the Atkinson family's dairy farm and Walton lived on the land for most of his life outside of time that he spent living in Wyoming (A. Aktinson, personal communication, July 1, 2021). The dairy farm was known as the Mt. Pleasant Dairy Farm. The Watson side of the family owned the Watson Family Farm that had a variety of livestock and crops but was most widely known throughout the region for the cantaloupe that they grew (A. Atkinson, personal communication, July 1, 2021; C. Conboy, personal communication, July 3, 2021).

An interesting Atkinson family story that is known throughout the local town as well as throughout the Atkinson family is the tale of when Albert Atkinson, the father of Roland S. Atkinson I, set fire to the family barn that was on the property of the Old Stone House, the now local historical landmark. Albert became very intoxicated after consuming alcohol and set fire to the family's barn on the property. He then committed suicide because he felt so much remorse for his act of arson. This tale could not be corroborated with local newspaper or journalistic

coverage but was corroborated by two Atkinson family members as well as the head of the town's historical society (A. Atkinson, personal communication, July 1, 2021; personal C. Conboy, personal communication, July 3, 2021; N. Appice, personal communication, July 6, 2021).

Notable members within the Atkinson family line also include James G. Atkinson, the son of Franklin S. Atkinson, who was one of the children of Lewis A. Atkinson. James G. Atkinson had a long career of civil service throughout the town including time spent as a Gloucester County freeholder, a civic position that only exists in New Jersey (Atlantic County Government, n.d.). In other states, the position is typically known as commissioners or councilors (Atlantic County Government, n.d.). In New Jersey, the state is divided into twenty-one counties and these county officials are in charge of their specific county (Rinde, 2015). Outside of his work as a county freeholder, James G. Atkinson also served as the town's mayor from 1977 to 1979 (Atkinson, n.d.). The Old Stone House is dedicated to him and his civil contributions to the town and a local town park, the James G. Atkinson Memorial Park, is dedicated to his son who died while serving in Vietnam (A. Atkinson, personal communication, July 29, 2021; Campbell, 2000).

Walton Atkinson, Roland S. Atkinson II's uncle, had a home on the Atkinson dairy farm and family-owned land. His junkyard, that he owned and later on bequeathed to Roland S. Atkinson II and Roland S. Atkinson III, also resided on Atkinson family land. This piece of land as well as the land that Roland S. Atkinson II still lives on are the only remaining parcels of land that the Atkinson and Watson families and their descendants still own. Since the 2020 sale of Roland S. Atkinson III's land, located next to Roland S. Atkinson II's land, these two parcels of land are the only remaining former farmlands left from both family lines.

Research Findings

A majority of the research was conducted in field in the researcher's hometown of Washington Township, New Jersey where all the artifacts were and are locally stored and kept. The research was conducted primarily in Roland S. Atkinson II's home with subsequent research being conducted in Carrie Conboy's home. Carrie Conboy's maiden name was Carrie Atkinson and Roland S. Atkinson II is her father. In Carrie Conboy's home, other artifacts were stored and housed. Another research location was the Old Stone House where Roland S. Atkinson II, Walton Atkinson, and other Atkinson family members had lived.

Roland S. Atkinson II, mainly with the help of his now deceased wife, Caroline Atkinson, had managed to store and preserve hundreds of Atkinson and Watson family photographs, heirlooms, documents, books, and other artifacts including chairs that were once furniture in the Old Stone House and a gas lamp that has been in the family for approximately one hundred years. Caroline Atkinson, a schoolteacher in Gloucester County for over thirty years, had helped Roland S. Atkinson II, Ephraim B. Watson Jr. and his family sell produce when they were still running the Watson Family Farm. Caroline Atkinson and Roland S. Atkinson II also lived in a trailer on the Watson Family Farm when they were first married until they could afford to purchase a home for them and their children (C. Conboy, personal communication, July 3, 2021). They were then able to build their home on the Watson Family Farm's land thanks to the generosity of Ephraim B. Watson Jr. The importance of these kind acts and the importance of preserving the family history were not lost on Caroline Atkinson and her preservation of the family's records and artifacts is the main reason that the collection can exist today. Please see Appendix A, Figure 5 for the 1968 land transfer from Ephraim B. Watson Jr to Roland S.

Atkinson II and Caroline Atkinson. Please see Appendix A, Figures 6-8 for portions of the 1973 blueprint for Roland S. Atkinson II and Caroline Atkinson's home.

The research took place over the course of approximately two weeks and utilized best archival practices from the LIM 599: Archives and Archival Management course taught by Dr. Ben Alexander for the University of Southern California, Marshall School of Business's Master of Management in Library and Information Science (MMLIS) program. The two primary texts consulted to ensure the project followed the archival professional industry standards and guidelines were *Selecting & Appraising: Archives & Manuscripts* (Boles, 2005) and *Arranging and Describing: Archives and Manuscripts* (Meissner, 2019). Additional research assistance and support was provided by the Washington Township Historical Society and its president, Nicholas Appice. They provided access to the Old Stone House to take photographs of the house and its artifacts, answered any research questions, and also provided supplemental documents and information regarding Frank Atkinson and part of the Atkinson family line that Appice's wife, Candice Atkinson, descended from and on which she had gathered information. The local town library, The Margaret E. Heggan Library, also provided research assistance by searching through the town's records to locate and provide a copy of Roland S. Atkinson II's documentation and record in the county's census of Washington Township, New Jersey. This documentation provided proof of Roland S. Atkinson II's birth and lineage as it lists him as 6 months old in the 1930 county census and lists Ephraim B. Watson and Mary Watson as his grandparents. Please see Appendix A, Figure 9 for a copy of the 1930 Washington Township, New Jersey Census.

The most notable gap in the research findings was the inability to locate the original land deed for the Watson Family Farm or the Atkinson Farm, the Mt. Pleasant Dairy Farm. It is presumed that the records are in cold storage in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania due to the date, age,

and preservation needs of the documents according to information provided by the Gloucester County Clerk's office (Gloucester County New Jersey, n.d.-b; Hefler, 2016). The researcher hopes to track down these pivotal research materials to ultimately include them in the collection at a later date when the researcher is able to travel to the New Jersey and Pennsylvania region for additional research.

Collection

The collection consists of four medium sized boxes and one large sized box of items including photographs, important family documents like death and marriage certificates, handwritten letters from the 1950's, photographs dating back to the 1800's, land deeds and land property ownership documents from the 1960's. The collection also includes family furniture pieces and décor items dating back to the 1800's, and many rare books. The item with the highest research value is the handwritten Watson Family Farm log which dates from 1939 to 1968 when the farm ceased operations. The farm log is in decent condition for its age but does need to be handled with delicately and with care by archivists, trained information professionals, and researchers. The farm log not only will attract patrons and visitors to the digital and physical exhibits of the collection, but its incredibly valuable historical significance also contributes great research value to the collection. This type of artifact is something that researchers will want to be able to see in order to gain tangible understanding of the daily farm operations of small-town farms throughout the era of the book's contents and logs. Researchers could trace and track daily operations, cash flow, and what livestock were utilized and when. It is an invaluable artifact and will definitely help the collection thrive long term and possibly attract funding from grants and institutional support. Please see Appendix B, Figures 1-3 for figures of the Watson Family Farm log.

The collection has other items of research and historical value. The collection has a bank note envelope from the Pitman Bank, a bank local to the Washington Township area, dated 1927 that was found among Walton Atkinson's personal affects. The envelope showcases the designs of the time while also providing a tangible artifact from that year and helps date and place Walton Atkinson in the Gloucester County, New Jersey area at that time frame. Walton Atkinson also kept his bank ledger and records from the years 1927 to 1966 and this ledger can also be found in the collection. Please see Appendix B, Figures 4 and 5 for Walton Atkinson's collection items.

Another collection item of note is the blueprints from 1973 for the property Roland S. Atkinson II built on the land given to him by his grandfather, Ephraim B. Watson. The blueprints show the parameters of the family land in that area and also document and showcase the layout of the family home in which Roland S. Atkinson and his wife, Caroline Jones Atkinson, raised their family and helped create the next generation of Atkinsons all while continuing to live on what was once the family's farmland. In fact, Roland S. Atkinson lived in the same relative radius and on family farmland his entire life, spanning 92 years so far. Please see Appendix A, Figures 7-9 for portions of the 1973 blueprints.

The collection also holds a copy of the Atkinson family's manifest and date from when they sailed from England to the United States in 1634. The explanation of the manifest is a copy pulled from a library, but the framed pictures could be first edition copies of the voyage records. While further appraisal is suggested for the collection item, it still helps paint a picture of when the Atkinsons came to America and how long they have been influential in the New Jersey region. Please see Appendix A, Figures 1-2 for the ship manifest figures.

Another collection item is an old Watson family photo album that includes pictures of relatives in Civil War era soldier uniforms. Many of the pictures are not dated, but the grain of the photos, the quality of the photos, the dress of the photo subjects, and the resemblance towards other photos within the collection points towards estimations of early 1800's timeframes for creation. Please see Appendix B, Figure 6-8 for a figure of the Watson family photo album.

The collection also includes two artifacts that have been in the family since the 1800's, an antique lamp and a chair that the family possessed while living in the Old Stone House. The lamp was bought in Philadelphia and was converted from gas to electric many years after purchase (C. Conboy, personal communication, July 3, 2021). The lamp's value may have decreased due to the conversion, but the research and historical value is still immense (Antiques Roadshow, n.d.; Verderame, n.d.). The chair has been in Roland S. Atkinson II's home and possession for years and is in relatively good condition. The collection researchers visited the Old Stone House to take pictures for the digital collection and archive and noted that the chairs already in the Old Stone House looked very similar to the one that Roland S. Atkinson II has in his possession. Please see Appendix B, Figures 9-10 for figures of the oil lamp and the chair.

Another collection item is an old farming newspaper dated April 1, 1905. The newspaper is titled, The Farm and Fireside, and it gives local farmers advice on how to care for their livestock, best practice tips, and farm specific products that they can buy from manufacturers and sellers throughout the nation. The newspaper also has sermons and small excerpts of sheet music for readers to sing. Please see Appendix B, Figures 11-12 for figures of the newspaper pages.

Another collection item is the land title for the family farmlands owned and operated by Frank S. Atkinson, dated 1926. The document provides a back-and-forth mortgage agreement between Frank S. Atkinson and the Henry Stanley Sons Corporation for 77.80 acres of land. The

deed shows that the mortgage was assigned to Henry Stanley Sons Corporation in 1926 and then returned to Frank S. Atkinson and Anna C. Atkinson in 1933. Please see Appendix B, Figure 13 for a figure of the mortgage agreement.

Another key area of items within the collection are the photographs of Atkinson and Watson family members. There are photographs of Alverna Watson, Roland S. Atkinson II's mother, when she was a baby and photographs of her with Roland S. Atkinson II before she passed away. There are photographs of Walton Atkinson and Roland S. Atkinson II, who was nicknamed "Skeets" and labeled as such on the back of the photographs, together as children. There are also photographs of Walton Atkinson, Roland S. Atkinson II, and Warren Atkinson riding together in a horse and buggy that are undated, but the date can be assumed to be in the early 1930's due to the relative ages of the photograph's participants. There are photographs of Roland S. Atkinson II fishing with male family members, most likely taking him on outings and bonding with him to help step into role left absent by his father. Please see Appendix C, Figures 1-4 for photographs of Alverna Watson, Roland S. Atkinson II, Walton Atkinson, and Warren Atkinson.

There are photographs of unnamed Watson family members dated 1901-1906 in additional Watson family photo albums. There is a photograph of Clarence Watson in a horse drawn buggy, dated 1906. There is another photograph of Clarence Watson, dated 1906, in which Clarence is posing and sitting in a chair. There is a photograph of Ephraim B. Watson Sr. also posing in a chair in 1906. There is another photograph of Ephraim B. Watson Jr., Mary Watson, and Roland S. Atkinson II standing together. There is also a photograph dated 1930 of Roland S. Atkinson II when he is just a year old. Please see Appendix C, Figures 5-9 for

photographs of Clarence Watson, Ephraim B. Watson, Sr., Mary Watson, Ephraim B. Watson Jr., and Roland S. Atkinson II.

There are two photograph albums of Watson family members that are undated and unlabeled. While they are undated, it is safe to approximate the time of creation to be in the late 1800's as the photographs resemble other photographs in the collection that are dated as such. There are also many photography examples from that era that greatly resemble the photographs in the family albums which has helped the researcher guess their date. Please see Appendix C, Figures 10-11 for figures of the Watson family photo albums.

There is a photograph of Ephraim B. Watson's first truck being used at a family picnic outing in 1929. There is also a photograph of Ephraim B. Watson, dated 1898, which is one of the oldest photographs in the collection. There are photographs of Roland S. Atkinson II attending school. Most of them are not dated but there is one photograph that is dated 1942 under the logline, "Happy School Days". He attended school at Grenloch Terrace, which is now the town's kindergarten school building, until the eighth grade. All of his children and grandchildren attended school there for their kindergarten education as it is now a kindergarten building and not a primary school for multiple grades (C. Conboy, personal communication, July 3, 2021). Please see Appendix C, Figures 10-13 for photographs of Ephraim B. Watson, Roland S. Atkinson II attending school, and a current photograph of the Grenloch Terrace School.

Roland S. Atkinson II dropped out of school in the eighth grade. He missed the bulk of his school days because of illness. He fell behind in his studies and withdrew to stay back on the farm to help his grandparents. This was a point of contention for him as it hurt his pride to think that he was less intelligent than his peers or his children and grandchildren since he never formally completed his education. He was always very proud of his family members for

attending school and ensured that they stayed in school well into collegiate and upper academic levels of education. Including pictures of his school days and information about where he went to school is important to the collection as it helps illustrate an important portion of Roland S. Atkinson II and his family's historical narrative.

Recommendations for Future of Project

Cataloging of the collection materials has started but due to the quick turnaround time of in-field research and the written portion of the project, the cataloging will take longer than expected. The first entries within the cataloging system can be consulted for the research within this project, but further cataloging needs to be finished for user access of the entire collection. The vast number of collection items that need to be digitizes combined with the project barrier of minimal funding and staffing also requires a longer turn-around time for the collection to be available, in its entirety, digitally as only one archivist and researcher is available to build the website, create finding aids, and digitize the items.

A second in-field research trip is recommended in order to collect more narratives and oral histories from local townspeople who knew Roland S. Atkinson II and the family farms. With each portion of the research completed, more townspeople have come forward with memories and personal stories about Roland S. Atkinson II, time spent with other Atkinson family members, and time spent or knowledge of the Atkinson and Watson family farms. An alternative to a second in-field research trip, if funding is an issue for the trip, is a section of the collection's website dedicated to allowing online users to submit personal stories and memories for the archivist and researcher to verify at a later date. Removing the necessity for travel and allowing townspeople to directly contact the researcher online can help the researcher collect

more narratives to add to the collection and scope of the collection's research and historical narrative.

The project could also benefit from a physical display of key collection items that demonstrate the historical and research values of the collection, get patrons and users interested in discovering more of the collection when they later visit it digitally, and it could offer local citizens a way to physically view and visit documentation and artifacts that provide more insight into the history of their town. The option of a physical display has been discussed between the project researcher and the head of the town's historical society. The local town library will most likely be the best fit for the physical display of the collection as they have displayed exhibits for the historical society before. The historical society may be able to accept the chair permanently into their collection at the Old Stone House, but this decision has not yet been made final.

The project's longevity will benefit from the continued involvement of the historical society and the positive relationship between the historical society, local history enthusiasts and supports of the historical society and their initiatives, and the researcher. Since the researcher does not live near the physical location of the archival materials, it is beneficial to continue these relationships remotely and have local support while being remote. The researcher can provide additional artifacts, materials, and research assistance to the historical society and the historical society and town can provide patronage, support, and continued assistance with any collaborations involving on sight materials and displays.

The project has already benefitted from preliminary newspaper coverage from the Washington Township, New Jersey newspaper, *The Sun* (Fitchett, 2021). The newspaper featured an article about the researcher, the project, and how it highlights the Atkinson family history within the town. The project can utilize the momentum and recognition gained from this

publication to help secure additional future press coverage as well as add it to the researcher's portfolio when submitting articles about the research to professional field newsletters, such as the Society of California Archivists, an organization of which the researcher is a student member.

The project has the potential to offer not only important research materials for researchers seeking information on farming families from these time spans, but it also can add substantial historical value to any organization or institution that houses the physical version of the collection. The Watson Family farm log itself is an important historical document that is rare as it is difficult to find many handwritten farm logs from that era that are still in good condition. The project can also help provide physical artifacts and evidence that add further empirical proof of the impact and legacy of American small family farms.

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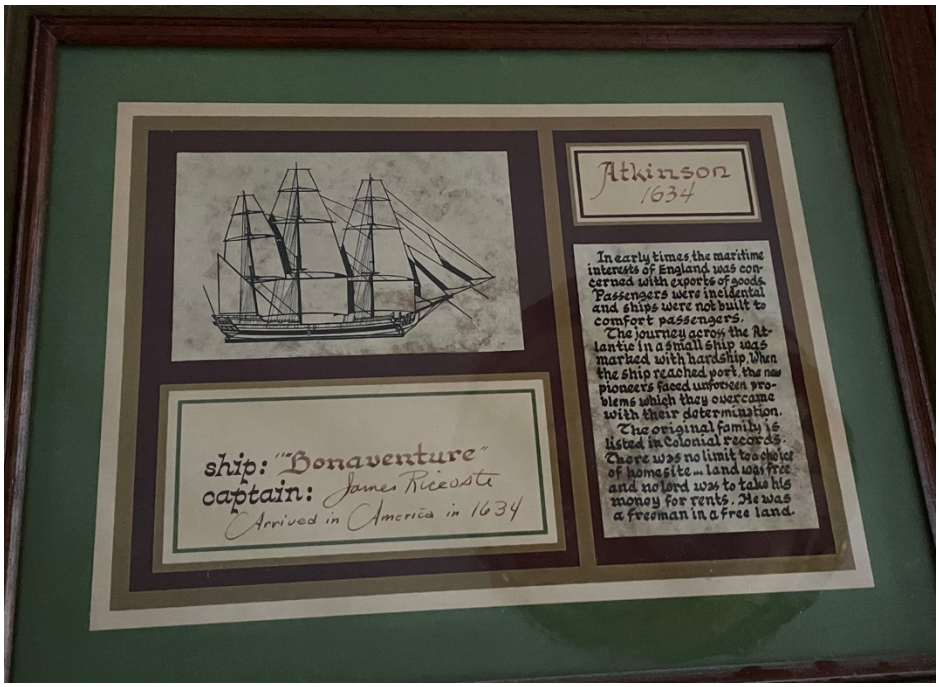
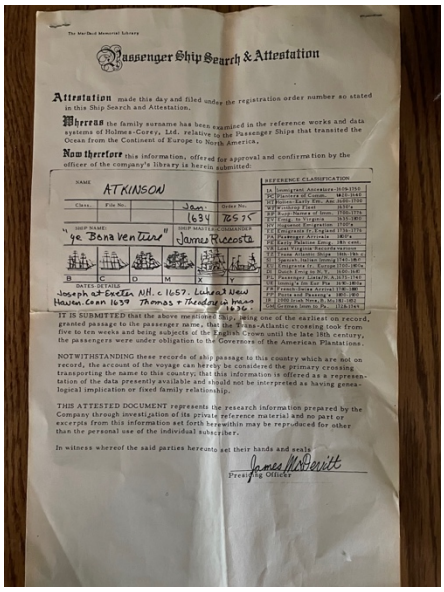
Appendix A

Figure 1



Note. Atkinson 1634 ship manifest

Figure 2



The MacBird Memorial Library

Passenger Ship Search & Attestation

Attestation made this day and filed under the registration order number as stated in this Ship Search and Attestation.

Wherras the family surname has been examined in the reference works and data systems of Holmes-Corey, Ltd., relative to the Passenger Ships that transited the Ocean from the Continent of Europe to North America.

Now therefore this information, offered for approval and confirmation by the officer of the company's library is herein submitted:

NAME				
ATKINSON				
Class.	File No.		Jan. 1634	Order No. 75275
"Ge Bonaventure"			James Ricosta	
B	C	D	M	X	Y

DATES OF CITIES: Joseph at Exeter N.H. c 1657. Lived in New Haven Conn 1639 Thomas + Theodosia born 1636

REFERENCE CLASSIFICATION

14	Immigrant Ancestors-1619-1783
30	Pioneers of Canada ... MIT-1945
07	Bacon-Early Vir. Adv. 1676
07	Bacon-Rebellion 1676
07	Early Owners of Vir. 1616-1775
07	Emig. to Virginia 1635-1800
07	Huguenot Emigration 1700's
21	Emigrants Fr. England 1776-1775
24	Parish Registers Eng. 1600's
24	Parish Registers Eng. 1800's
48	Land Virginia Records-various
51	Early Atlantic Ships 1600-1800's
51	Spanish-Indian Sinking 1741-1867
51	Emigrants Fr. Europe 1700-1800's
51	Dutch Emigrants 1700-1800
51	Dutch Emigrants Fr. Europe 1700-1840
58	Sailing's Ski Ear Pic. 1630-1870's
58	French-Swiss Arrival 1750-1800
58	Dutch and Passing 1800-1900
58	1000 Irish New. R. Ma. 1840-1850
58	Germans from Fr. Pa. 1750-1760

IT IS SUBMITTED that the above mentioned ship, being one of the earliest on record, granted passage to the passenger name, that the Atlantic crossing took from five to ten weeks and being subjects of the English Crown until the late 18th century, the passengers were under obligation to the Governors of the American Plantations.

NOTWITHSTANDING these records of ship passage to this country which are not on record, the account of the voyage can hereby be considered the primary crossing transporting the name to this country; that this information is offered as a representation of the data presently available and should not be interpreted as having genealogical implication or fixed family relationship.

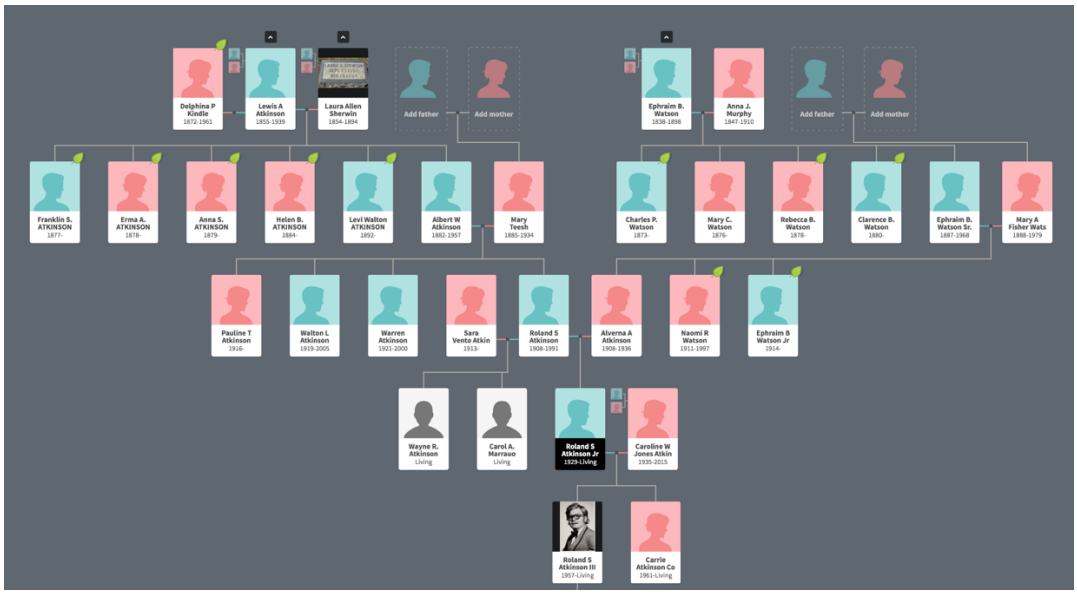
THIS ATTESTED DOCUMENT represents the research information prepared by the Company through investigation of its private reference material and no part or excerpts from this information set forth hereunto may be reproduced for other than the personal use of the individual subscriber.

In witness whereof the said parties hereunto set their hands and seals

James M. Everitt
Presiding Officer

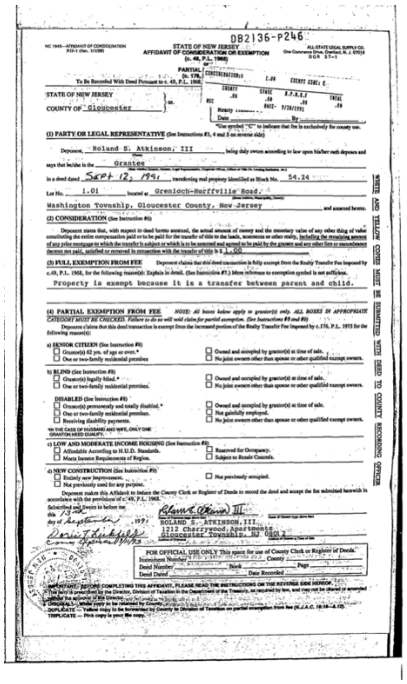
Note. 1634 Atkinson family ship manifest documentation

Figure 3



Note. Atkinson and Watson family tree

Figure 4



0B2136-P246

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
AFFIDAVIT OF CONSIDERATION OR EXEMPTION
(c. 49, P.L. 1968)
or
PARTIAL
(c. 176, P.L. 1975)

To Be Recorded With Deed Pursuant to c. 49, P.L. 1968.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
COUNTY OF Gloucester

(1) PARTY OR LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE (See Instructions #1, 4 and 5 on reverse side)

Deponent, Roland S. Atkinson, III being duly sworn according to law upon his/her oath deposes and says that he/she is the Grantee

in a deed dated Sept 12, 1991 transferring real property identified as Block No. 54.24

Lot No. 1.01 located at Grenloch-Harrtville Road,

Washington Township, Gloucester County, New Jersey and annexed hereto.

(2) CONSIDERATION (See Instruction #5)

(3) FULL EXEMPTION FROM FEE

Property is exempt because it is a transfer between parent and child.

(4) PARTIAL EXEMPTION FROM FEE

a) SENIOR CITIZEN (See Instruction #6)

b) BLIND (See Instruction #8)

DISABLED (See Instruction #8)

c) LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING (See Instruction #9)

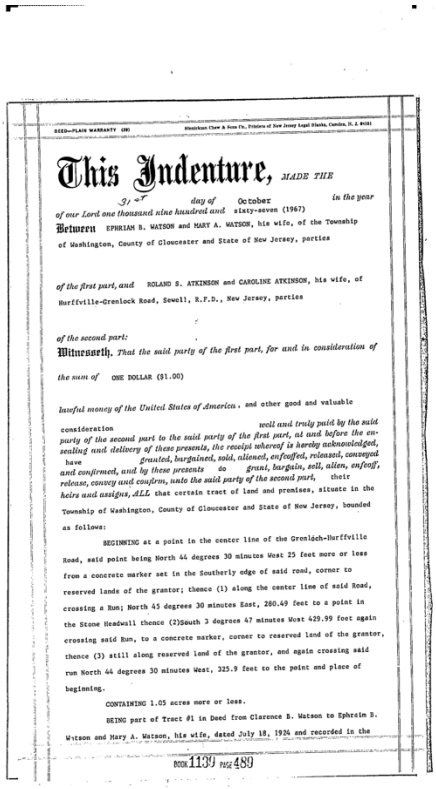
d) NEW CONSTRUCTION (See Instruction #9)

Roland S. Atkinson III
ROLAND S. ATKINSON, III
1112 Grenloch Road/Apartments
Gloucester Township, NJ 08012

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY This space for use of County Clerk or Register of Deeds.

Caution: Before completing this affidavit, please read the instructions on the reverse side hereof.

Figure 5



SEED—PLAIN WARRANTY (38) Winchester Clear & Sons Co., Printers of New Jersey Legal Blanks, Camden, N. J. 08101

This Indenture, *MADE THE*

31st *day of* October *in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and* sixty-seven (1967)

Between EPHRIAM B. WATSON and MARY A. WATSON, his wife, of the Township of Washington, County of Gloucester and State of New Jersey, parties

of the first part, and ROLAND S. ATKINSON and CAROLINE ATKINSON, his wife, of Hurffville-Grenlock Road, Sewell, R.F.D., New Jersey, parties

of the second part:

Witnesseth, *That the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of* ONE DOLLAR ($1.00)

lawful money of the United States of America, and other good and valuable consideration *well and truly paid by the said party of the second part to the said party of the first part, at and before the ensealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged,* have *granted, bargained, sold, aliened, enfeoffed, released, conveyed and confirmed, and by these presents* do *grant, bargain, sell, alien, enfeoff, release, convey and confirm, unto the said party of the second part,* their *heirs and assigns, ALL* that certain tract of land and premises, situate in the Township of Washington, County of Gloucester and State of New Jersey, bounded as follows:

BEGINNING at a point in the center line of the Grenlock-Hurffville Road, said point being North 44 degrees 30 minutes West 25 feet more or less from a concrete marker set in the Southerly edge of said road, corner to reserved lands of the grantor; thence (1) along the center line of said Road, crossing a Run; North 45 degrees 30 minutes East, 280.49 feet to a point in the Stone Headwall thence (2)South 3 degrees 47 minutes West 429.99 feet again crossing said Run, to a concrete marker, corner to reserved land of the grantor, thence (3) still along reserved land of the grantor, and again crossing said run North 44 degrees 30 minutes West, 325.9 feet to the point and place of beginning.

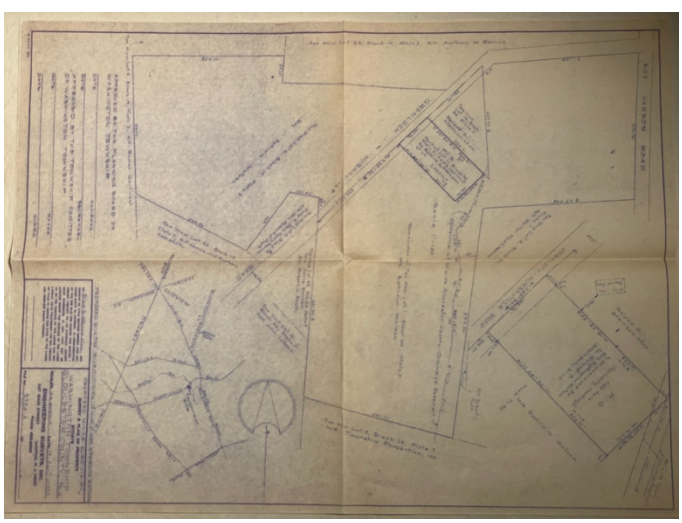
CONTAINING 1.05 acres more or less.

BEING part of Tract #1 in Deed from Clarence B. Watson to Ephraim B. Watson and Mary A. Watson, his wife, dated July 18, 1924 and recorded in the

BOOK 1139 PAGE 489

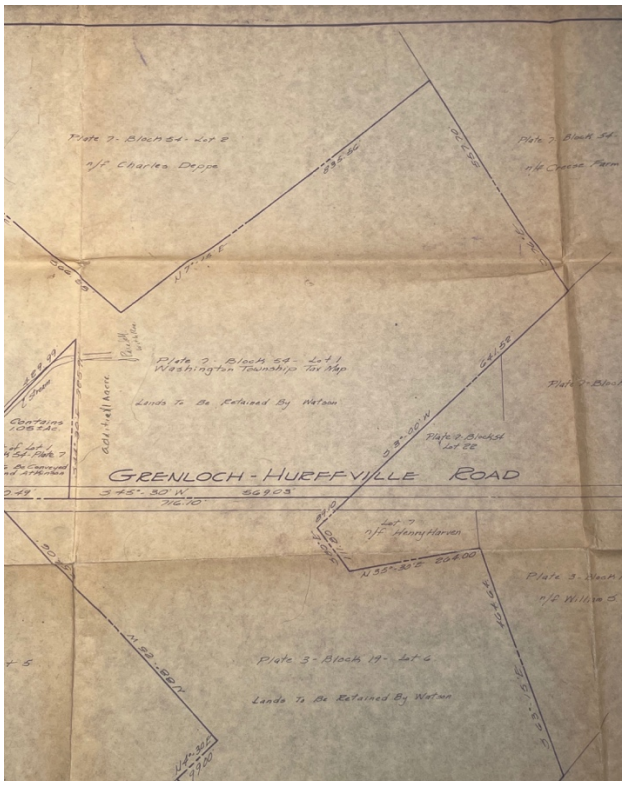
Note. 1967 Watson to Atkinson land transfer

Figure 6



Note. Portion of 1973 Watson/Atkinson land blueprint

Figure 7

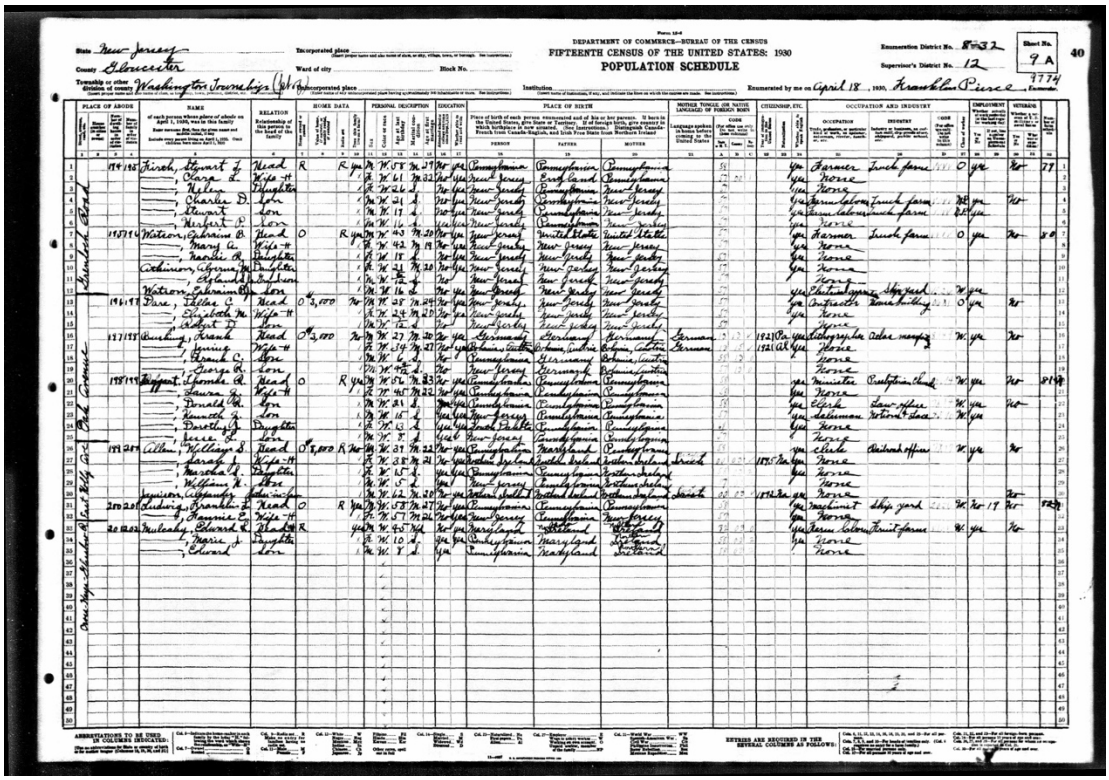


Note. Portion of 1973 Watson/Atkinson land blueprint

Figure 8

Note. Portion of 1973 Watson/Atkinson land blueprint

Figure 9



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
FIFTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1930
POPULATION SCHEDULE

State: New Jersey — County: Gloucester — Township or other division of county: Washington Township (pt) — Incorporated place: — Ward of city: — Block No.: — Institution: — Enumerated by me on April 18, 1930, Frank Lee Pierce, Enumerator

Enumeration District No. 8-32 — Supervisor's District No. 12 — Sheet No. 7 A — 40

	Place of abode	Name	Relation	Home data	Personal description	Education	Place of birth	Mother tongue	Citizenship	Occupation and industry	Employment	Veterans
1	194 195	Finch, Stewart J.	Head	R	M W 58 M 29	No yes	Pennsylvania Pennsylvania Pennsylvania		yes	Farmer Truck farm	O yes	No 77
2		Clara E.	Wife H		F W 61 M 32	No yes	New Jersey England Pennsylvania		yes	None		
3		Nelva	Daughter		F W 26 S	No yes	New Jersey Pennsylvania New Jersey		yes	None		
4		Charles D.	Son		M W 21 S	No yes	New Jersey Pennsylvania New Jersey		yes	Farm laborer Truck farm	NE yes	No
5		Stewart	Son		M W 17 S	No yes	New Jersey Pennsylvania New Jersey		yes	Farm laborer Truck farm	NE yes	
6		Herbert P.	Son		M W 16 S	yes yes	New Jersey Pennsylvania New Jersey		yes	None		
7	197 196	Watson, Ephraim B.	Head	O	R yes M W 43 M 20	No yes	New Jersey United States United States		yes	Farmer Truck farm	O yes	No 80
8		Mary A.	Wife H		F W 42 M 19	No yes	New Jersey New Jersey New Jersey		yes	None		
9		Nadie R.	Daughter		F W 18 S	No yes	New Jersey New Jersey New Jersey		yes	None		
10		Atkinson, Myrna M.	Daughter		F W 21 M 2	No yes	New Jersey New Jersey New Jersey		yes	None		
11		Orland J.	Son-in-law		M W 22 S	No	New Jersey New Jersey New Jersey			None		
12		Watson, Ephraim B. Jr.	Son		M W 16 S	No yes	New Jersey New Jersey New Jersey		yes	Electrical engineer Ship yard	W yes	
13	196 197	Dare, Elias C.	Head	O $3,000	No M W 28 M 4	No yes	New Jersey New Jersey New Jersey		yes	Contractor Bank building	O yes	No
14		Elizabeth M.	Wife H		F W 24 M 2	No yes	New Jersey New Jersey New Jersey		yes	None		
15		Robert D.	Son		M W 2 S	No	New Jersey New Jersey New Jersey			None		
16	197 195	Ewing, Frank	Head	O $3,000	No M W 27 M 10	No yes	Germany Germany Germany	German	1921 Pa yes	Chemist, lab Coke manufg	W yes	No
17		Jenny	Wife H		F W 34 M 27	No yes	Germany Austria Austria	German	1921 Ak yes	None		
18		Frank C.	Son		M W 6 S	No	Pennsylvania Germany Germany			None		
19		George R.	Son		M W 4 S	No	New Jersey Germany Germany			None		
20	198 199	Leggett, Thomas A.	Head	O	R yes M W 56 M 33	No yes	Pennsylvania Pennsylvania Pennsylvania		yes	Minister Evangelical church	W yes	No 21
21		Laura A.	Wife H		F W 46 M 32	No yes	Pennsylvania Pennsylvania Pennsylvania		yes	None		
22		Donald M.	Son		M W 21 S	No yes	Pennsylvania Pennsylvania Pennsylvania		yes	Clerk Law office	W yes	No
23		Kenneth G.	Son		M W 15 S	yes yes	New Jersey Pennsylvania Pennsylvania		yes	Salesman Notions & dress	W yes	
24		Dorothy J.	Daughter		F W 13 S	yes yes	Pennsylvania Pennsylvania Pennsylvania		yes	None		
25		Pierce, C.	Son		M W 8 S	yes	New Jersey Pennsylvania Pennsylvania			None		
26	199 200	Allen, William S.	Head	O $5,000	R No M W 39 M 22	No yes	Pennsylvania Maryland Pennsylvania		yes	Clerk Railroad office	W yes	No
27		Sarah J.	Wife H		F W 28 M 21	No yes	Nova Scotia Nova Scotia Nova Scotia	Dutch	1915 Ca yes	None		
28		Marcella V.	Daughter		F W 15 S	yes yes	Pennsylvania Pennsylvania Nova Scotia		yes	None		
29		William H.	Son		M W 5 S	yes	New Jersey Pennsylvania Nova Scotia			None		
30		Jackson, Alexander	Son-in-law		M W 62 M 30	No yes	Nova Scotia Nova Scotia Nova Scotia	Dutch	1912 Ca yes	None		No
31	200 201	Ludwig, Franklin E.	Head	O	R yes M W 53 M 27	No yes	Pennsylvania Pennsylvania Pennsylvania		yes	Machinist Ship yard	W No 17	No 72
32		Maggie E.	Wife H		F W 51 M 24	No yes	New Jersey Pennsylvania New Jersey		yes	None		
33	202 203	Mulcahy, Edward R.	Head	R	yes M W 45 M	No yes	Maryland Ireland Ireland		yes	Farm laborer Fruit farm	W yes	No
34		Marie J.	Daughter		F W 10 S	yes yes	Pennsylvania Maryland Maryland		yes	None		
35		Edward	Son		M W 7 S	yes	Pennsylvania Maryland Maryland			None		

Dwelling No. Washington Twp. Gloucester Co. N.J.

Dwelling No. Washington Twp. Gloucester Co. N.J.

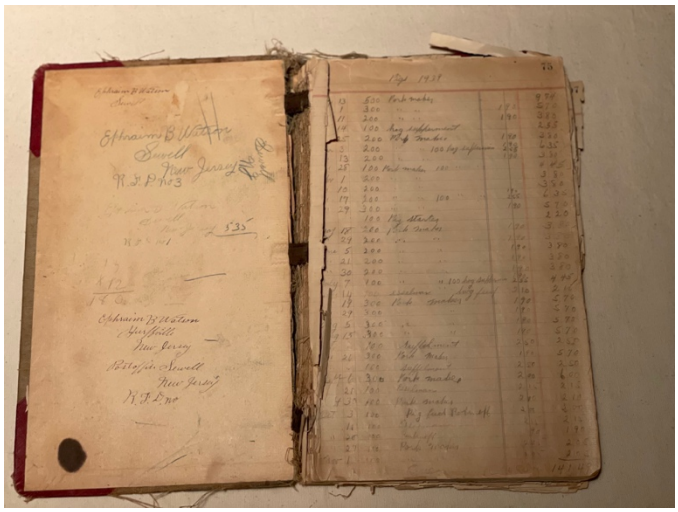
Note. 1930 Washington Township, New Jersey Census

Appendix B

Figure 1

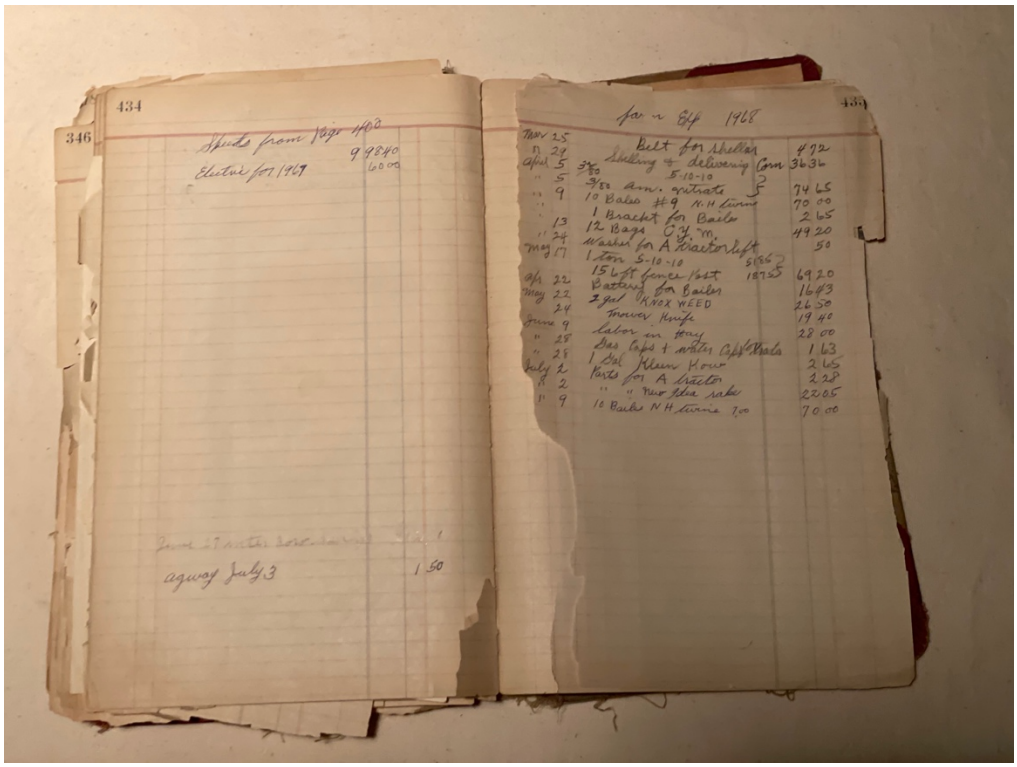
Note. Watson Family Farm log

Figure 2



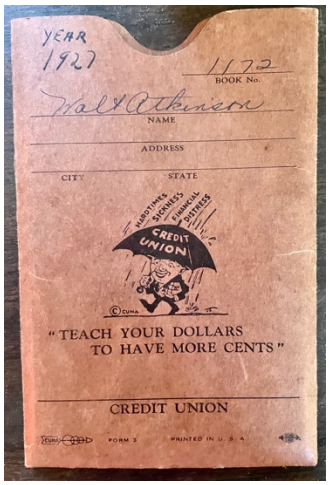
Note. Watson Family Farm log

Figure 3



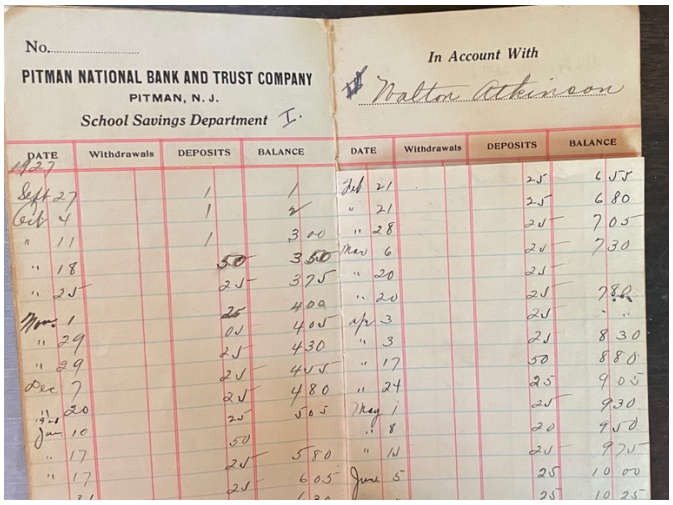
Note. Watson Family Farm log

Figure 4



Note. 1927 Walton Atkinson bank envelope

Figure 5



Note. Walton Atkinson bank ledger

Figure 6

Note. Watson family photo album spine

Figure 7

Note. Watson family photo album cover

Figure 8

Note. Watson family photo album (inside)

Figure 9

Note. Atkinson family oil lamp

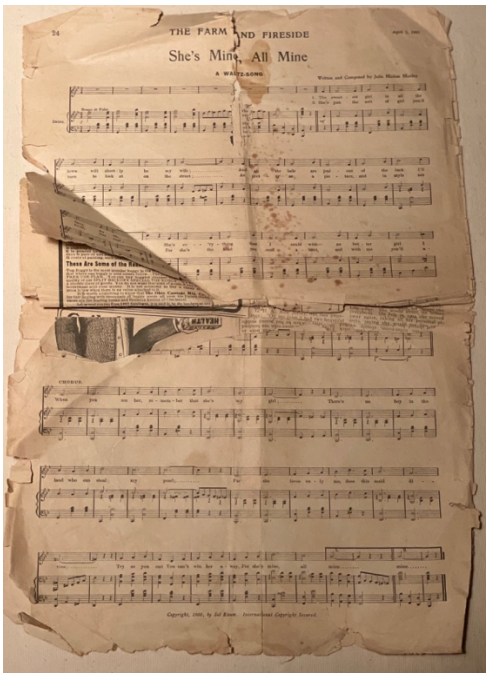
Figure 10

Note. Atkinson family chair from the Old Stone House

Figure 11

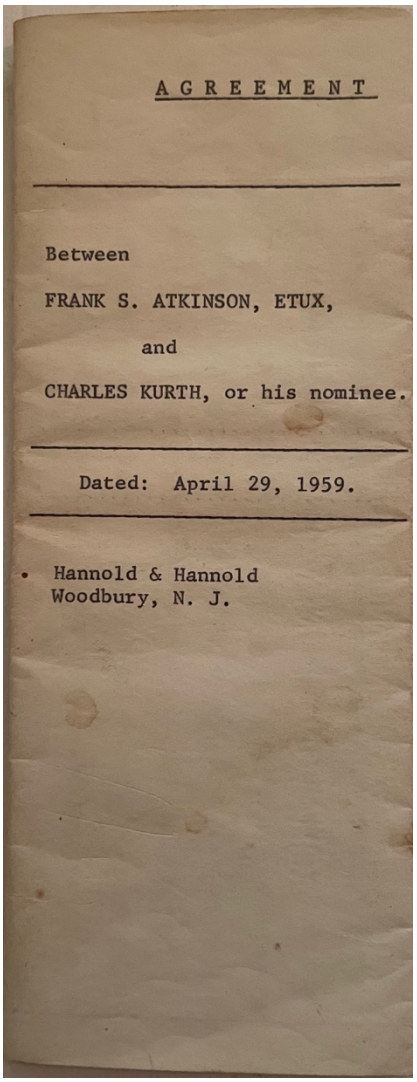
Note. 1905 *The Farm and Fireside* newspaper

Figure 12



Note. 1905 *The Farm and Fireside* newspaper

Figure 13



AGREEMENT

Between

FRANK S. ATKINSON, ETUX,

and

CHARLES KURTH, or his nominee.

Dated: April 29, 1959.

Hannold & Hannold
Woodbury, N. J.

Note. Franklin S. Atkinson mortgage agreement

Appendix C

Figure 1

Note. Alverna Watson as a baby

Figure 2

Note. Alverna Watson with Roland S. Atkinson II

Figure 3

Note. Walton Atkinson, Warren Atkinson, and Roland S. Atkinson II as children

Figure 4

Note. Roland S. Atkinson II fishing with family

Figure 5

Note. Clarence Watson in horse and buggy, 1906

Figure 6

Note. Clarence Watson, 1906

Figure 7

Note. Mary Watson, Ephraim B. Watson Jr., and Roland S. Atkinson II

Figure 8

Note. Ephraim B. Watson Sr., 1906.

Figure 9

Note. 1930 picture of Roland S. Atkinson II, one year old

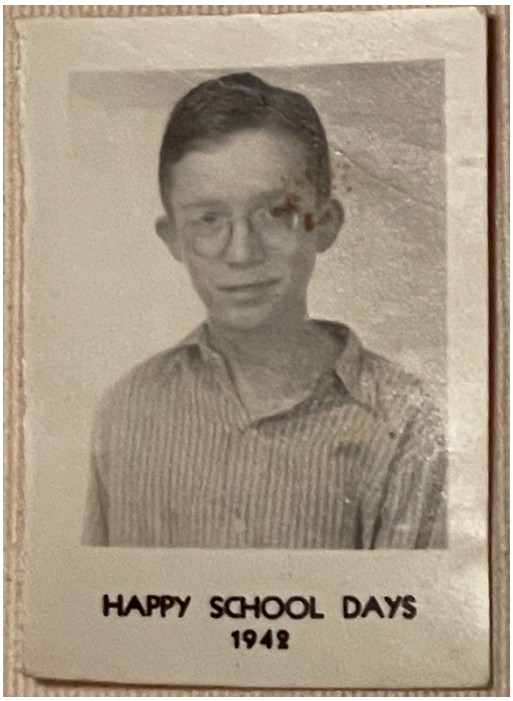
Figure 10

Note. Watson family photo album

Figure 11

Note. Watson family photo album

Figure 12



Note. Roland S. Atkinson II 1942 Grenloch Terrace school photo

Figure 13

Note. Grenloch Terrace school, July 7, 2021